



Will considerations of environmental sustainability revitalise the policy links between the urban environment and health?

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Abstract:

This paper explores when and how considerations of population health have influenced the creation, planning and management of cities. Cities--now the dominant human habitat--must be planned and managed sustainably in a world that is manifestly experiencing increasing environmental and social strains. Early industrialisation entailed crowding, squalor and industrial environmental blight; the two great associated public health hazards were infectious diseases and air pollution. These hazards have been largely controlled in rich countries. Today's main urban health hazards are obesity (with its life-shortening health consequences) and the huge contribution of cities to climate change with the resultant risks to population health. These and other health issues in urban environments need to be understood and addressed at the community or population level. This is an ecological challenge, crucial to attaining real sustainability.

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Respiratory Effect

Resource Type:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified